



United States
National Commission on
Libraries and Information Science

MINUTES
JULY 14, 1991

MEMBERS PRESENT: Daniel W. Casey; Carol DiPrete; Wanda Forbes;
Jerald Newman; Elinor Swaim, NCLIS Vice
Chairman; Winston Tabb; Barbara Taylor;
Julia Li Wu; and Chairman Charles E. Reid,
Presiding

WHC ADVISORY

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Richard Akeroyd, Chairman

STAFF PRESENT: Peter R. Young; NCLIS Executive Director;
Jean Curtis, WHC Executive Director;
Mary Alice Hedge Reszetar; John G. Lorenz;
Kim Miller; Frank Stevens; Jane Williams

GUESTS PRESENT: Mr. Norman Kelson; Mrs. Joyce Newman;
Mr. Peyton Neal, IIA; Mr. George Singleton

Chairman Reid called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m.

POST-CONFERENCE DISCUSSION

Chairman Reid heartily thanked everyone for their part in making the second White House Conference on Library and Information Services the huge success it was.

Chairman Reid gave special thanks to Dick Akeroyd, Peter Young, and Jean Curtis for their "special efforts." Mrs. Swaim was especially thanked for being the Chairman's "right hand." Mrs. Forbes was acknowledged -- and applauded by all -- for serving and working on the Conference Recommendations Committee (CRC). The Chairman recognized Mr. Newman for his impressive Pledge of Allegiance; Ms. DiPrete for her hard work on the Credentials Committee; Mr. Farrell for his contributions to the Open Forum; and Mrs. Riddle for her work on the Open Forum. The Chairman extended his warm appreciation to Mrs. Reszetar and Mrs. Miller for their work on the Joint Congressional Hearing and Open Forum; to Mrs. Williams for her assistance to the Chairman and Executive Director; and to Mrs. Whiteleather for her invaluable contributions before she had to leave due to a family emergency. Finally, the Chairman extended warm thanks and appreciation to Mr. Winston Tabb and the Library of Congress for hosting the beautiful reception on Thursday, July 11.

The Chairman warmly acknowledged Mr. Charles Benton and Ms. Elinor Hashim, Chairmen-Emeritus, and Dr. Bessie B. Moore, Vice-Chairman Emeritus who all participated substantively in the WHC process.

Mrs. Curtis called the NCLIS and WHC staff work "the best cooperative effort I have ever seen." She announced that mementos (in the form of a paperweight with the WHC insignia) were presented to all speakers, WHC A/C Members, NCLIS Members, WHC and NCLIS staff members, and volunteers.

In comparing this Conference to the 1979 Conference, the Chairman, Commissioners, and staff agreed that "the present Conference was warmer, better-balanced, presented an overall feeling of well-being, and promoted a more positive feeling."

Chairman Reid noted that, as can be expected, there were several concerns expressed. However, they were all handled to the satisfaction of the persons involved, e.g., the special concerns of the Disabled Caucus and the Black Caucus. There was one minor accident involving a person who was struck by a falling display, but the Delegate did not require hospitalization.

Mrs. Swaim asked if there would be an overall Conference evaluation questionnaire. Mrs. Curtis explained that a questionnaire will be sent to all delegates in the first mailing by the WHC staff. The results will be shared with all NCLIS and WHC A/C Members.

Mr. Akeroyd cautioned the Commissioners that the planning for the final report to the President and for the long-term implementation of the recommendations should begin within one month. In addition, a joint NCLIS WHC-A/C meeting will be held October 23-25 and key people should begin planning the agenda for that meeting.

Mrs. Swaim distributed copies of *Halfway Home and a Long Way to Go*, a report on the economic plight in the South, which might serve as a format model for the White House Conference Final Report.

Chairman Reid pointed out that the Conference Recommendations Committee (CRC) was technically dismissed at the end of the Conference. It was noted, however, that a Preamble and theme statements for the Final Report were not completed by the close of the Conference. Two suggestions for completing the Preamble/Theme Statements were discussed: (1) Select three persons from the CRC, who would work closely with the NCLIS staff (suggested by Chairman Reid); and (2) The Chairman could select a group of people to draft the statement which would be reviewed and approved by the CRC (suggested by Mr. Young). Chairman Reid stated his intention to discuss this matter with Mr. Gordon Ambach, Chair of the CRC and to develop a plan for completing this important part of the Conference process.

Ms. DiPrete suggested that the Delegates and Alternates be sent a one-page summary sheet regarding each of the recommendations, noting whether they were amended and passed; passed without amendment, or defeated. Mr. Tabb thought this an excellent suggestion and urged that this be done as soon as possible. Both the Chairman and Mr. Young stated that it was their impression that the WHC staff was given authority for minor editorial technical amendments to the recommendations, which is very important.

Mr. Newman stated, "As the previous NCLIS Chairman, I helped secure the \$5 million Congressional appropriation for this White House Conference. In the back of my mind I was thinking, 'With \$5 million, aren't we better off buying books for distribution to needy

libraries?' After completion of this Conference, I just know that this \$5 million can really be seen as seedlings that will have a multiplier effect which will revert for years to come to the benefit of the Nation's libraries. I feel that the Conference was not only well done, but that it will produce great results."

Mrs. Curtis expressed her opinion that even though the voting machines were functioning, the delegates preferred not to use them because our society does not yet entirely understand or trust technology. (A case in point was the long lines for hotel check out, when the process can be done through the television screen in each room if attempted during certain hours.)

Mr. Young stated that Mr. John Berry, Editor, *Library Journal*, congratulated him that very morning "on a great Conference."

It was noted that there are many, many people to be given special thanks and appropriate recognition (through letters, resolutions, and/or momentos). The partial list includes:

- The President for calling the White House Conference;
- The Congress for its support;
- Participating Governors
- Ms. Linda Resnik, the first WHC Executive Director;
- The many volunteers;
- Spouses;
- The advance staff from the White House;
- Reception hosts;
- Parliamentarians;
- Barbara Moreland and the Library of Congress's Resource Staff;
- Preliminary Conference Design Group Members.

When appropriate, WHC staff will be asked to include the new NCLIS brochure with the thank-you letters.

Commissioners were asked to inform the WHC staff if there is a particular person and/or group to be given special thanks/recognition.

Commissioners should request additional souvenirs and/or mementos from the Conference (programs, photos, newspapers, canvas bags, etc.), from the WHC staff.

FINAL WHC REPORT

Chairman Reid reported that Gaylord has offered to contribute toward the printing of the Conference Final Report. Mr. Newman reported that the Public Printer, Robert Houk, also offered the assistance of the Government Printing Office in the publication of the report. (Mrs. Reszetar noted that Mr. Houk has requested to be the first "Friend of the Commission.") In Mrs. Curtis' opinion, the WHC should accept the Public Printer's offer. It was agreed that Gaylord should be contacted by NCLIS staff to discuss their offer to contribute to the WHC reports.

Mr. Peyton Neal offered to obtain funds to produce a final post-conference issue of the Conference daily newspaper "Discovery".

NORMAN KELINSON

Chairman Reid introduced and welcomed Mr. Norman Kelinson of Davenport, Iowa. Mr. Kelinson stated that, in his opinion, it was a very successful Conference and that he did not hear any negative comments. Mr. Kelinson stated that he is hopeful his nomination as a NCLIS Member will be forthcoming in the near future and that he is looking forward to serving on the Commission.

RAYMOND PETERSEN

Chairman Reid announced that Mr. Raymond Petersen's term as a NCLIS Member will expire on July 19, 1991.

MOTION

IT WAS MOVED BY JERALD NEWMAN, SECONDED BY DANIEL CASEY, THAT NCLIS STAFF PREPARE A RESOLUTION HONORING MR. RAYMOND PETERSEN FOR HIS TENURE AS A MEMBER OF THE NCLIS.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Chairman Reid stated that in all likelihood, the August 29-30, 1991 Executive Committee will be held in Washington, D.C., as planned. Prior to this meeting, however, it is the Chairman's intention to hold a conference call among all Commissioners if this proves necessary. If a Commissioner is anticipating being away from home or office within the next few weeks, he/she should inform the NCLIS staff and, if possible, leave a forwarding number for an approximately one-hour conference call, if it is necessary.

Chairman Reid stated that he would like to begin holding the conference calls for Commissioners at a scheduled date and time on a monthly basis. It was noted that "official" business cannot be conducted during conference calls, e.g., the passing of motions and/or resolutions. If such action must be taken, it will be ratified either by mail or at the next meeting.

POST-WHC STAFF PLANS

Chairman Reid briefly discussed tentative plans for staff, property, and space now that the Conference is over, including: (1) Lease by NCLIS of WHCLIS conference room space; (2) Extend Mark Scully's detail from the Government Printing Office; and (3) Obtain additional detailees for NCLIS.

FY 1992 BUDGET AND TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS

Mrs. Reszetar reported that the Senate Appropriations Committee marked up the appropriations bill in Subcommittee and Full Committee on Thursday, July 11. Originally the majority was not going to go along with the Administration's request (of \$911,000) because NCLIS' Technical Amendments had not passed. However, Senator Pell's office sent the approved OMB language to the Legislative Counsel and a bill has been drafted and is now being circulated to the key Authorizing and Appropriations Committee staffers (all of whom Mrs. Reszetar has met with). Because this process was underway in the Senate, the Senate Appropriations Committee agreed to language which would fund NCLIS at the \$911,000 level vs. \$750,000 for fiscal 1992.

It is hoped that action on the NCLIS Technical Amendments will take place during the week of July 22-26, 1991, or before the August 5 - September 9 recess. The Senate hopes to bring the Technical Amendments up under suspension of the rules -- which means if one Senator objects, it does not pass. The House has indicated they will "hold the Senate-passed bill at the desk" and not refer it to a Committee and also bring it up under suspension of the rules in order to expedite passage in the House. If this happens, it will allow the House Appropriations Committee to agree with the Senate amount in the House/Senate Conference which is now scheduled to be held in September, not before the August recess which had been an earlier target date. It was agreed that although having the Technical Amendments come up under suspension is a risky strategy, it is one that NCLIS needs to take in order to help obtain action on the Technical Amendments in this Congressional session.

The Joint Congressional Hearing, which was held during the White House Conference, chaired by Senator Claiborne Pell (D-RI), and Representative Pat Williams (D-MT) was deemed a huge success. Regarding the Technical Amendments, Mrs. Reszetar stated, "Timing is everything and this may well be the time."

MOTION

IT WAS MOVED BY JERALD NEWMAN, SECONDED BY WINSTON TABB, THAT A RESOLUTION BE PREPARED IN HONOR OF SENATOR PELL AND THE PARTICIPATING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. THE RESOLUTION WOULD RECOGNIZE THOSE INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUCCESSFUL JOINT CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Commissioners discussed the drafts of the WHC recommendation in the Final Report. It was agreed that the Report will include the final recommendations, plus the Preamble/Theme Papers.

NCLIS MINUTES

MOTION

IT WAS MOVED BY JERALD NEWMAN; SECONDED BY KAY RIDDLE, TO APPROVE THE NCLIS MINUTES OF MAY 16, 1991, AS SUBMITTED.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

RESOLUTION -- NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES REGARDING LIBRARIES

The Members of NCLIS unanimously adopted a Resolution on the National Association of Counties and Libraries wherein the NCLIS, in part, resolves "That NCLIS urges the members of the National Association of Counties to study carefully the recommendations of the WHCLIS and to work with librarians and others who support libraries to continue to improve library services in member counties and to affirm the right of citizens to have access to needed library services through the United States." This resolution will be forwarded immediately to the NACO Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah.

NCLIS RETREAT

At the Chairman's request, the Retreat Committee will reconsider the proposed meeting dates and location for the NCLIS Retreat.

IFLA

At IFLA 1991 in Moscow, Chairman Reid designated Mr. Daniel Casey as the official U.S. NCLIS Delegate; Winston Tabb will be the official Alternate Delegate.

NATIVE AMERICAN NORTHWEST HEARING

Travel arrangements and contacts for the Northwest site visits and hearing for the NCLIS Committee on Library and Information Services for Native Americans have been completed by Mr. Frank Stevens. The site visits will be held from August 12 - 15. The hearing will be held on Friday, August 16 in Seattle, Washington. Mrs. Swaim is planning to visit the Native American Tribes in Alaska in October, along with Chairman Reid.

FRANK STEVENS

Mr. Frank Stevens' two-year detail to NCLIS will end at the completion of the Northwest Hearings; however, the Department of Education has agreed to allow him to continue to work on an occasional basis beyond his return date to the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI) in order to complete the NCLIS Final Report on Native American Library and Information Services.

MOTION

IT WAS MOVED BY ELINOR SWAIM; SECONDED BY WANDA FORBES THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SCIENCE HEARTILY THANK FRANK STEVENS FOR HIS INVALUABLE SERVICE AND COMMITMENT TO THE WORK OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION AND THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

August 5, 1991